

Message Text

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40

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SAJ-01 EB-07 /055 W

----- 024165

O P R 171701 JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2909

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NICOSIA 166

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS PFOR, CY, PING

SUBJ: BACKGROUND TO CLERIDES' DECISION TO RESIGN

1. RIGHT-WING GREEK CYPRIOT NEWSPAPER "MAKHI" JANUARY 17 CARRIES ACCOUNT OF CLERIDES' DECISION TO RESIGN. GIST OF STORY IS THAT, AT END OF JOINT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS/NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 13, CLERIDES TOLD MAKARIOS HE WAS TIRED OF NEGOTIATING

WITH TURK CYPRIOTS ONLY TO SEE RESULTS REJECTED BY ORTHODOX CHURCH.

CLERIDES, ACCORDING TO "MAKHI" ACCOUNT, TOLD MAKARIOS HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT PRESENCE OF LEGAL ADVISORS AT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS

BUT NOT IF THEY ACQUIRED CHARACTER OF CONTINUOUS POLICE SURVEILLANCE.

WHEN MAKARIOS REPLIED THAT NOBODY WAS TRYING TO PLACE CLERIDES UNDER

SURVEILLANCE, CLERIDES ASSERTED THAT POLICEMEN OUTSIDE HIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OFFICE HAD BEEN WATCHING HIS VISITORS CLOSELY AND SUBMITTING REPORTS TO AN ARCHBISHOPRIC EMPLOYEE.

CLERIDES ALSO CITED TAPPING OF HIS PHONE CALLS BY MEMBER OF CYPRUS POLICE FORCE, "AS IF I AM THE NUMBER ONE MAFIA LEADER". CLERIDES STATED THAT WHEN
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MAKARIOS VISITED PAPHOS RECENTLY, TWO PERSONS DESCRIBED HIM (CLERIDES) AS A TRAITOR AND MAKARIOS HAD SAID NOTHING IN HIS DEFENSE. FINALLY, PERSONS OF MAKARIOS' ENTOURAGE HAD BEEN FINANCING A PAPER WHICH HAD BEEN INSULTING CLERIDES; AND WHEN PAPER RECENTLY FELL INTO FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES A NEW INJECTION OF MONEY WAS MADE TO KEEP IT ALIVE.

2. COMMENT: ABOVE TRACKS CLOSELY WITH WHAT EMBASSY HAS LEARNED REGARDING DEEPER REASONS FOR CLERIDES' DECISION TO RESIGN. PAPER REFERRED TO IS "ANAGENNISSIS", WHICH IS ALLEGEDLY BACKED BY BISHOP CHRYSOSTOMOS OF PAPHOS, ONE OF MAKARIOS' CLOSEST COLLEAGUES. PAPER WAS EXPECTED TO FOLD LAST MONTH BUT SOMEHOW MANAGED TO STAY ALIVE. END COMMENT. CRAWFORD

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE INFO ANKARA
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